

Phrasal Expressions

- ✚ When you learn a new language, you must learn the meaning of individual words.
- ✚ But, there is another area that you should pay attention to: expressions, or groups of words.
- ✚ Some expressions are especially useful whether you want to improve your speaking, listening, reading or writing skills.
- ✚ These expressions are common in everyday speech, newspaper writing and academic writing. What are these expressions?
- ✚ In this week's Everyday Grammar, we will explore **phrasal** expressions.

Phrasal expressions

- ✚ In recent Everyday Grammar stories, we explored phrasal verbs. Phrasal verbs are groups of words that have a verb and one or more short words.
- ✚ Together, these words have an idiomatic meaning – a meaning that differs from what the individual words suggest.
- ✚ For example, the phrasal verb "hang out" means to relax, or enjoy some time without any planned activity. You can hang out alone or with others.
- ✚ There are also phrasal expressions – groups of words that work together to take on a meaning that is different from what the individual words suggest.
- ✚ Consider this example: the words "there is." This is a phrasal expression. This group of words appears together as a unit.
- ✚ But if you try to think about each word, the meaning might be difficult to understand. Consider this:

“There is a bug in my tea!”

- ✚ The word “there” takes the subject position in the sentence, but it does not really give any meaning.
- ✚ It is what grammar experts call an **expletive**. Together, the words “there” and “is” make a kind of expression – “there is.”
- ✚ Without “there is,” the sentence would be:

“A bug is in my tea!”

- ✚ Do not fear. You do not need to remember the grammar that we just talked about.
- ✚ What is important is that you understand that English has groups of words that act together.
- ✚ These groups of words are generally formulaic, meaning set, fixed and commonly used.

More examples

- ✚ Eli Hinkel is a language expert. [She writes](#) that formulaic expressions “have to be used and learned as whole units.”
- ✚ Hinkel gives many examples, such as “you are welcome,” “who knows?” “how are you?” and “by the way.”
- ✚ Let’s consider “by the way.” If you think about the words individually, you might have a difficult time understanding this phrasal expression.
- ✚ When someone says “by the way” they mean they are about to propose a new, and perhaps less important idea, to a **conversation**. So, you might hear an American say the following at the end of a business meeting:
- ✚ *“Thanks, John. By the way, could you send me those budget estimates when you get a chance?”*

- ✚ Norbert Schmitt and Ron Martinez published [a report](#) in the Journal of Applied Linguistics about some of the most common phrasal expressions in the British National Corpus, a 100 million word collection of written and spoken language.
- ✚ They suggest that some of the more common phrasal expressions include there is, there are, such as, of course, a few, at least, I mean, you know, a bit, sort of, and in order to.
- ✚ If you listen to everyday speech, you will hear these words often. Many of them are common in writing, too.

Closing thoughts

- ✚ Today we explored phrasal expressions – groups of words that mean something different from what you might expect.
- ✚ The good news is this: these expressions are common, useful and not too difficult to learn. But they do require careful study and **practice** in using them!
- ✚ Ashley, by the way, Schmitt and Martinez also published a list of common phrasal expressions along with examples.
- ✚ It might help our listeners and readers learn common phrasal expressions.
- ✚ That's right! I almost forgot! You can find it, along with other useful information, at Schmitt's [vocabulary resource page](#).

And that's Everyday Grammar.

I'm Ashley Thompson.

And I'm John Russell.

John Russell wrote this story for Learning English. Caty Weaver was the editor.

Words in This Story

- ✚ **phrasal** – *adj.* grammar: of, relating to, or consisting of a phrase or phrases
- ✚ **unit** -- *n.* a single thing, person, or group that is a part of something larger
- ✚ **expletive** – *n.* a word or phrase that fills out (or takes a slot) in a sentence without adding to the meaning
- ✚ **conversation** – *n.* a talk involving two people or a small group of people
- ✚ **practice** – *v.* to do something again and again in order to become better at it

Three Useful Phrasal Expressions

- ✚ In a recent Everyday Grammar report, we explored phrasal expressions. Phrasal expressions are groups of words that take on a special meaning.
- ✚ This meaning is different from what the individual words suggest.
- ✚ Today we will explore three common, useful phrasal expressions. You will hear how people use them in everyday speech and in presentations, such as TED Talks.

What are phrasal expressions?

- ✚ Phrasal expressions have somewhat unusual meanings. If you look up each individual word in the dictionary, you still might not understand them as a group.
- ✚ Here is an example. In our earlier report, we described the phrasal expression ‘by the way.’ ‘By the way’ means that the person speaking is going to introduce a new subject to a discussion.

- ✚ There are thousands of phrasal expressions in English.* In today's report, we will explore the expressions so that, at all, and sort of.

so that

- ✚ Our first phrasal expression is 'so that.' 'So that' can be used in an explanation or to describe a purpose.
- ✚ It generally introduces a subordinate clause – a group of words with a subject and a verb. The subordinate clause plays a part in a longer sentence.
- ✚ Here is an example. Imagine you are explaining how to park a car on a very **steep** hill.
- ✚ *Be sure to set the emergency brake so that the car does not roll away.*
- ✚ The first part of the sentence – Be sure to set the emergency brake – is a complete sentence.
- ✚ The words 'so that' introduce a clause that explains or describes the purpose for setting the brake.
- ✚ Let's listen to an example of how a speaker might use 'so that' in a presentation. In this TED Talk, Sara-Jane Dunn talks about programming cells.
- ✚ *“And then those programs must operate in a **distributed** way across individual cells, so that they can **coordinate** and that plant can grow and flourish.”*

at all

- ✚ Our second phrasal expression is 'at all.' 'At all' means to any extent or in any way. It can make statements stronger. It acts like an adverb in the sentence.

- ✚ Unlike ‘so that,’ ‘at all’ does not introduce a clause. English speakers mostly use it in the middle or at the end of a sentence.

Here is an example.

- ✚ *Tom came to dinner last night, but he didn't eat at all! He must have been worried about something.*

- ✚ The reason the speaker used ‘at all’ is to highlight that Tom did not eat. ‘At all’ makes the statement stronger.

- ✚ ‘At all’ is common in speaking and writing. Let’s listen to how Amy Padnani, an editor at the New York Times, uses ‘at all’ in a 2019 TED Talk.

- ✚ *“There were moments when I faced great self-doubt. I wondered if I was crazy or if I was all alone, and if I should just give up. When I’ve seen the reaction to this project, I know I’m not at all alone.”*

sort of

- ✚ Our third phrasal expression is ‘sort of.’ ‘Sort of’ means in some way or to some extent.

- ✚ Unlike our other phrasal expressions, ‘sort of’ is informal. ‘Sort of’ is used in everyday speech. You will generally not see it in writing.

- ✚ ‘Sort of’ can stand alone as a statement, as in:

Do you agree with that?

Sort of...

- ✚ ‘Sort of’ can also appear in a longer sentence, as in:

She was sort of nice.

- ✚ You might hear Americans reduce 'sort of' to something that sounds like 'sorta.'
- ✚ Let's listen to how a speaker uses 'sort of' in a presentation. In this example, Jon M. Chu talks about filmmaking. Listen to how he uses 'sort of' as a kind of adverb.
- ✚ "You can plan, you can write **scripts**, you can do your **storyboards**, but at a certain point, your movie will speak back to you, and it's your job to listen.
- ✚ It's this living organism and it sort of presents itself, so you better catch it before it slips through your hands..."

Closing thoughts

- ✚ You have learned about three common phrasal expressions. Now be sure to practice using them whenever you can.
- ✚ Look and listen for other phrasal expressions and keep a record of your findings. With time, and practice, you will use more and more phrasal expressions with ease.

I'm Ashley Thompson.

And I'm John Russell.

John Russell wrote this story for Learning English. Caty Weaver was the editor.

**"Phrasal expression" is an umbrella term that covers many kinds of phrases, phrasal verbs, etc.*

Words in This Story

- ✚ **steep** – *adj.* going up or down very quickly
- ✚ **distribute** – *v.* to divide (something) among the members of a group — usually + between or among — often used as (be/get) distributed
- ✚ **coordinate** – *v.* to act or work together properly and well
- ✚ **script** – *n.* the written form of a play, movie, television show, etc.
- ✚ **storyboard** – *n.* a series of drawings or pictures that show the changes of scenes and actions for a movie, television show, etc.
- ✚ Phrasal verbs are two or more words that together act as a completely new word, with a meaning separate from the original words.
- ✚ For example, pick up means to “grab” or “lift,” very different from the definitions of pick and up alone. Popular in spoken English, phrasal verbs can be quite confusing because their definitions aren’t always easy to guess—and there are thousands of them.
- ✚ In fact, many phrasal verbs are distinct variations on the same base verb, which can add to the confusion.
- ✚ For multilingual speakers, in particular, phrasal verbs are one of the most difficult topics in learning English.
- ✚ To help simplify this complicated issue, what follows is our guide to understanding English phrasal verbs, including a list of the most common ones.

80 Most Common Phrasal Verbs

What is a phrasal verb?

- ✚ A phrasal verb combines a normal verb with an adverb or a preposition to create an entirely new verbal phrase—the phrasal verb.
- ✚ The meaning of a phrasal verb is usually unrelated to the meanings of the words that comprise it, so think of a phrasal verb as an entirely new and independent word.
- ✚ When used in a sentence, phrasal verbs act the same as other verbs for conjugation and placement, although they do have special grammatical rules about word order, which we talk about below.
- ✚ Phrasal verbs can be conjugated into every type of verb form, so you can use them anywhere you could use a normal verb.
- ✚ Let's look at the phrasal verb get over as an example. The verb get alone means to “acquire,” and the preposition over alone usually refers to being higher or going above something.
- ✚ However, put them together and the phrasal verb get over means to “recover” or “overcome,” a completely new definition that's separate from the definitions of get and over.

- ✚ You can use get over just like a normal verb, in any form or tense. Here are some quick examples:

Simple past tense:

- ✚ I had the flu last week but got over it.
- ✚ Infinitive:
He wrote a song to get over his grandmother's death.
- ✚ Gerund:
Getting over prejudice at work is never easy.
- ✚ Particle:
Having finally gotten over the breakup, they were ready to return their partner's things.
- ✚ How to conjugate phrasal verbs
When a phrasal verb is used as the main verb of a sentence, you conjugate the verb part and leave the other words as they are. Simply use whatever form of the verb you would use if it were alone.
- ✚ I get up at noon during the summer.
- ✚ However, this morning I got up at sunrise.
- ✚ I have gotten up early too many times this month.
- ✚ Notice how only the word get changes, but the word up remains the same.
- ✚ Also notice how get, an irregular verb, uses its irregular forms to fit whichever tense it needs.

✚ In this way, you can use phrasal verbs in all the verb tenses, so you're able to communicate anything you want.

✚ Conjugation is also important for maintaining verb tense consistency if you're using phrasal verbs in a list with other verbs.

Types of phrasal verbs

✚ To better understand phrasal verbs, it helps to organize them into two pairs: transitive and intransitive; separable and inseparable.

✚ A phrasal verb can belong to only one of each pair (although all separable phrasal verbs are transitive).

Transitive phrasal verbs

✚ Transitive phrasal verbs use a direct object, just like normal transitive verbs.

✚ Charlie couldn't put up with the meowing cats any longer.

✚ Intransitive phrasal verbs

✚ Likewise, intransitive phrasal verbs do not use an object.

✚ The regional director was late, so the sales team went ahead without her.

Separable phrasal verbs

✚ With transitive phrasal verbs, you can sometimes put the direct object in between the words, for example, “pick you up.”

✚ There are, however, a few rules to follow with separable phrasal verbs, so pay attention to our next section about word order.

✚ He forgot to shut the lights off before he left.

✚ Inseparable phrasal verbs

✚ Inseparable phrasal verbs cannot be split up and must be used together.

✚ The wayward son carried on without his father.

Word order with phrasal verbs

- ✚ Most of the time, the words in a phrasal verb stay together. For intransitive and inseparable phrasal verbs, the verb and the particle must go next to each other and should never be split up.
- ✚ Separable phrasal verbs follow different rules, however. For starters, separable phrasal verbs are always transitive, so they always have a direct object.
- ✚ You can put the direct object in the middle of separable phrasal verbs, in between the verb and the particle:
- ✚ Augustus would never let Hazel down.
- ✚ This is also true for noun phrases; place all words in a noun phrase in between the verb and the particle of a phrasal verb:
- ✚ You would never let any of your friends down.
- ✚ Some separable verbs require you to put the direct object in the middle every time. For example, let's look at the phrasal verb get down.
- ✚ The beginning of the movie Up gets down everyone.
- ✚ The beginning of the movie Up gets everyone down.

- ✚ On the other hand, sometimes it doesn't matter whether the direct object comes in the middle or at the end of a phrasal verb.
- ✚ Both options are acceptable. Unfortunately, there's no method for knowing whether or not you have to separate a phrasal verb; you just have to study and practice until it comes naturally.
- ✚ Pick the box up and carry it to the kitchen.
- ✚ Pick up the box and carry it to the kitchen.
- ✚ However, pronouns follow a special rule when it comes to separable phrasal verbs: If the object is a pronoun, it must be placed in the middle of a phrasal verb. Pronoun direct objects cannot go at the end.
- ✚ Pick up it and carry it to the kitchen.
- ✚ Pick it up and carry it to the kitchen.
- ✚ Remember that not all transitive phrasal verbs are separable. Transitive phrasal verbs can be either separable or inseparable, so be careful of where you put your object.
- ✚ For example, the transitive phrasal verbs get through, come between, and go against are all inseparable, so the direct object comes after them every time.

✚ Nothing comes us between.

✚ Nothing comes between us.

- 80 common phrasal verbs (with meanings and examples)
 - back [x] up
 - support or defend someone
 - When the class was making fun of me, only the teacher backed me up.
 - break down
 - stop working, especially when referring to machines
 - The ice cream machine at McDonald's is always breaking down.
 - call around
 - contact multiple people
 - Roy called around to find a nearby mechanic.
 - calm down
 - relax after an energetic or irritated state
 - I need a few minutes to calm down after that match.
 - call [x] off
 - cancel
 - We called the party off. / We called off the party.
 - check [x] out
 - verify a person or thing (can sometimes be flirtatious when used in reference to a person)
 - I'll check the contract out. / I'll check out the contract.
 - clean up
 - be extremely successful in an endeavor, such as business, sports, or gambling
-
- Our hockey team cleaned up at the tournament and went home undefeated.
 - stop questionable behavior, such as consuming drugs or alcohol
 - Her boss said she had to either clean up or find a new job.

- clean [x] up
- clean a general area
- John cleaned the living room up. / John cleaned up the living room.
- cheer [x] up
- make someone happy, especially if they were previously sad
- Reading always cheers me up on a rainy day.
- come around
- change an opinion or see a new point of view
- I never liked seafood, but came around after trying fried calamari.
- come between
- disturb a relationship
- After more than fifty years of marriage, nothing could come between them.
- come down on
- attack or punish harshly
- Ever since last month's accident, police have been coming down on drunk driving.
- come down with
- become sick
- After sitting in the rain for hours, Chandra came down with a nasty cold.
- come out of
- happen as a consequence of another event
- We missed a day of school, so at least some good came out of our boring class trip.
- come up
- become the topic of discussion or receive attention
- Everyone talked about how much they enjoyed the movie, but the run time never came up in the conversation.
- approach or come near
- While walking outside the fence, a cow came up right next to me and licked my face.
- happen or occur, as with an event or situation
- Don't worry about a problem until after it comes up.
- come up with
- think of an idea, especially as the first person to do so, or to produce a solution
- Sahar comes up with her best story ideas at night, so she writes them down before she forgets them.
- count on

- rely or depend on
- If I'm ever making a mistake, I can count on my friends to warn me.
- dive into
- occupy oneself with something; to pore over quickly or reach into quickly
- I'll dive into that new TV show later tonight.
- dress up
- wear nice clothes or put forth in the best light
- Abed dressed up for the award ceremony.
- end up
- eventually reach some conclusion or destination
- After thinking for a day, he ended up taking the job.
- fall apart
- break into pieces
- My new dress completely fell apart after just two washes.
- suffer from mental or emotional distress
- He endured all kinds of harassment at work without flinching but completely fell apart when his cat got sick.
- fill [x] up
- fill something completely
- Bruce filled his wine glass up to the brim. / Bruce filled up his wine glass to the brim.
- find out
- discover or learn
- We'll have to wait until the next TV episode to find out who the killer is.
- get [x] across
- communicate or explain something clearly
- The professor spoke for hours but didn't get anything across to the students.
- get ahead
- succeed or progress
- You'll never get ahead at this company unless you follow the rules.
- get around
- travel from place to place
- It's impossible to get around this city without a car.
- get around to [x]
- do something eventually
- I'll get around to fixing the table after the playoffs.
- get away with

- escape punishment or some other unpleasantness
- Shirley thought she got away with cheating until the teacher asked her to stay after class.
- get along with
- be friendly with
- My dog gets along with everyone as long as they're not a cat.
- get at
- reach
- There's an itch on my back that I can't get at.
- attempt to prove or explain
- What these graphs are getting at is that we'll be bankrupt by next week.
- get away
- escape or depart from
- Lucio liked to go to the lake every weekend, just to get away from the city.
- get away with
- escape punishment for a crime or misdeed
- The boss's nephew gets away with much more than any of the other employees.
- get [x] back
- have something returned
- Rodger got his pencil back from Greta. / Rodger got back his pencil from Greta.
- get back at
- have revenge on someone
- Laila promised herself that she would get back at whoever started the rumor.
- get by
- survive or manage at the bare minimum
- When Sheila lost her job, the family had to get by with only their savings.
- get down
- enjoy oneself without inhibitions, especially with music or dancing
- Vicente may be overly formal at work, but he sure knows how to get down to hip-hop.
- get [x] down
- depress or discourage someone

- Kima always gets everyone down with her stories from the hospital.
 - record or write something down
 - The President spoke quickly at the press conference, and reporters were struggling to get all of his comments down.
 - get down to
 - begin or start
 - Once everyone arrives, we'll get down to picking teams.
 - get in on
 - join an activity
 - After Bitcoin started going up, everyone wanted to get in on cryptocurrency.
 - get into
 - discuss something thoroughly
 - I don't want to get into our finances now; we'll talk after our guests leave.
 - get [x] out of
 - receive a benefit from something
 - Babysitting the Cohles was a nightmare, but at least Janelle got some money out of it.
 - get over
 - recover or overcome
 - Drinking a lot of water helps in getting over an illness.
 - get through
 - complete or endure an unpleasant task
-
- Alessandra can't get through a morning without coffee.
 - get to
 - annoy or bother someone
 - People who don't clean up after their dogs really get to me.
 - get together
 - have a social event
 - The volleyball team is getting together for dinner after practice.
 - give [x] away
 - donate something or give something for free
 - Mindy gave her prized doll collection away. / Mindy gave away her prized doll collection.
 - give up

- accept defeat, quit, or surrender
- Carin felt like giving up every time she saw the scoreboard.
- give [x] up
- stop consuming or doing something, often a habit
- Minh gave chocolate up for his diet. / Minh gave up chocolate for his diet.
- go against
- contradict, oppose, or fight against
- A group of students went against the school dress code yesterday and wore ripped jeans.
- go ahead
- proceed or move forward
- Because of the snow, we can't go ahead with the festival.
- go along with
- agree with or pretend to agree with
- Even though Cedric hated weight lifting, he went along with it because his coach suggested it.
- go for
- try or attempt to achieve something
- Carlos trains so hard because he is going for an Olympic gold medal.
- go on
- continue doing something (see keep [x] up)
- The boys will go on digging until they hit a water pipe.
- go over
- review or look at again
- Marie went over the study guide one last time before the test.
- hand in
- submit (especially an assignment)
- The teacher wants us to hand in our essays through email.
- hold [x] back
- prevent someone from doing something
- I wanted to become an architect, but my bad grades held me back.
- keep [x] up
- continue doing something (see go on)
- Keep this pace up and you'll set a new record!
- leave [x] out
- omit or disregard

- Orna left the graph out of the presentation. / Orna left out the graph from the presentation.

let [x] down

disappoint

- Kamal let Marco down when he arrived late. / Kamal let down Marco when he arrived late.

let go of

release or free

- Don't let go of the rope until I'm safe.

let [x] in

allow to enter

- Close the door or you'll let the flies in!

let [x] know

tell someone something

- Let me know as soon as Leslie texts back.

look after

take care of someone or something

- Thank you for looking after me when I was sick.

look up to [x]

admire or idolize someone

- I looked up to this YouTuber until I read about their scandal.

mix up

confuse something with something else

It's easy to mix up Chris Pine and Chris Pratt.

pull [x] up

retrieve or bring something nearer

- Eugene pulled the document up on his computer. / Eugene pulled up the document on his computer.

put [x] on

wear or add something to your person or an object

- I always put my backpack on before leaving the house. / I always put on my backpack before leaving the house.

put up with

tolerate or condone

- Somehow Paz could put up with Janice's cynical attitude.

run out of

use all of or drain the supply of something

- Isabella ran out of toilet paper at the worst possible time.

see to

make sure something is done

- I'll see to watering the plants while you're gone.

set [x] up

arrange or organize

- Since no one invited me to join their study group, I set one up myself.

show off

deliberately display abilities or accomplishments in order to impress people

- Panya didn't need to shoot so many three-pointers; she was just showing off.

shut [x] off

turn off, especially a machine

- Don't forget to shut the water off after your shower. / Don't forget to shut off the water after your shower.

take after

resemble, especially with parents and their children

- Li takes after his father when it comes to politics.

take [x] out

move something outside

- Please take the garbage out before dinner. / Please take out the garbage before dinner.

think [x] over

consider something

- When his parents suggested selling his Pokemon cards, Yosef thought it over.

throw [x] away

dispose of something

- Could you throw that old burrito away? / Could you throw away that old burrito?

turn [x] down

reject or say “no”

- My crush turned me down after I asked them out.

top off

fill something to the top; to complete something in a special or spectacular way

- May I top off your beverage?

wait on

serve, especially at a restaurant

- Billie eagerly waited on the new table of customers, hoping for a big tip.

Phrasal verb FAQs

English speakers of all backgrounds often have questions about phrasal verbs—after all, they’re quite confusing! Here are some frequently asked questions about phrasal verbs to help clear up some things.

What are phrasal verbs?

Phrasal verbs are a group of words that combine a verb with an adverb or a preposition. Together, these words act as a single verb and take on a whole new meaning that’s independent from the meanings of the individual words.

What are phrasal verb examples?

Phrasal verbs are very common, and you hear them in spoken English all the time. Some popular examples include get out, calm down, give away, and put up with.

What are the four types of phrasal verbs?

There are four types of phrasal verbs, divided into two pairs: transitive and intransitive; separable and inseparable. A phrasal verb can belong to only one of each pair, but keep in mind that all separable phrasal verbs are transitive.

This article was originally written in 2020 by Nikki Piontek. It's been updated to include new information.

The Same Word Used as Different Parts of Speech:

(1) About-

- *Adverb*- She is too tired to move about.
- *Preposition*- He knows nothing about me.

(2) Above-

- *Noun*- Rains come from above.
- *Adjective*- The above mistakes are very common.
- *Adverb*- Please look above.
- *Preposition*- His dealings are above dishonesty.

(3) Advance-

- *Noun*- An advance of five hundred rupees was given.
- *Adjective*- The advance money has been returned.
- *Verb*- Five hundred rupees were advanced as security.

(4) After-

- *Adjective*- All this is an after thought.
- *Adverb*- You left and he came soon after.
- *Preposition*- The policeman ran after the chief.
- *Conjunction*- I saw him after the class had been over.

(5) All-

- *Noun*- He lost his all for the sake of his beloved.
- *Pronoun*- All of us were present in the meeting.
- *Adjective*- All the boys were present in the meeting.
- *Adverb*- He was left all alone.

(6) Back-

- *Noun*- The heavy load broke his back.
- *Adjective*- He entered through the back door.
- *Verb*- Do not back out of your word.
- *Adverb*- Go back and never come again.

(7) Before-

- *Adverb*- I have not seen him before.
- *Preposition*- Will you go there before me?
- *Conjunction*- I will do it before I go.

(8) Better-

- *Noun*- Always have a regard for your betters.
- *Verb*- Better your handwriting.
- *Adjective*- This pen is better than that.
- *Adverb*- He sings better than I.

(9) **Best-**

- *Noun-* This is the singer's best song.
- *Adjective-* He is the best boy in the class.
- *Adverb-* They have played their part best.

(10) **Bite-**

- *Noun-*The bite of a mad dog is dangerous.
- *Verb-* Barking dogs seldom bite.

(11) **Book-**

- *Noun-* The book is lying on the table.
- *Verb-* Get your seat booked in the train.
- *Adjective-* Don't be a book-worm.

(12) **But-**

- *Verb and Noun-* But (Verb) me no buts (Noun).
- *Pronoun-* There was none but wept.
- *Adverb-* You are but a child.
- *Preposition-* All but Aditi were present.
- *Conjunction-* He ran but could not catch the train.

(13) **Call-**

- *Noun-* I am always at your beck and call.
- *Verb-* Call in the doctor.
- *Adjective-* A call bell is fitted to the gate.

(14) **Close-**

- *Noun-* At the close of the school, we played games.
- *Verb-* The school is closed today.
- *Adjective-* Menu is my close friend.
- *Adverb-* He sat close to me.

(15) **Dead-**

- *Noun-* The Hindus burn their dead.
- *Adjective-* I saw a dead body.
- *Adverb-* I am dead tired.

(16) **Deep-**

- *Noun-* Many a ship has sunk in the deep (sea).
- *Adjective-* It is a deep sea.
- *Adverb-* Go deep into the sea and you will find a gem.

(17) **Down-**

- *Noun-*The old man has seen many ups and downs in his life.
- *Verb-* Knock this naughty boy down.
- *Adjective-* Are you waiting for the down train?
- *Adverb-* Sit down please.

(18) **Enough-**

- **Noun-** Enough has already been done for you.
 - **Adjective-** He has enough money in his pocket.
 - **Adverb-** We have played enough.
- (19) **Even-**
- **Verb-** First even the ground and then play.
 - **Adjective-** Two and four are even numbers.
 - **Adverb-** He did not even look at me.
- (20) **Evil-**
- **Noun-** The evil that men do lives after them.
 - **Adjective-** He has fallen on evil days (unlucky times).
- (21) **Except-**
- **Verb-** The poor are excepted from this tax.
 - **Preposition-** All except Ravi were present.
 - **Conjunction-** I shall help you, except that I do not give you my word.
- (22) **Express-**
- **Noun-** An express runs from Amritsar to Delhi.
 - **Verb-** I have expressed my views.
 - **Adjective-** I will catch the express train.
 - **Adverb-** The letter was sent express.
- (23) **Fair-**
- **Noun-** The fair is in full swing.
 - **Adjective-** I need fair deal and no favour.
 - **Adverb-** We should play fair.
- (24) **Fast-**
- **Noun-** He keeps fast on every Sunday.
 - **Verb-** I can fast for two days at a stretch.
 - **Adjective-** He travelled by a fast train.
 - **Adverb-** He ran fast and caught the train.
- (25) **Fine-**
- **Noun-** I paid my fine.
 - **Verb-** He is fined for his absence.
 - **Adjective-** What a fine weather it is!
 - **Adverb-** Please tune fine.
- (26) **Fire-**
- **Noun-** There is no fire in the hearth.
 - **Verb-** The gun was fired.
 - **Adjective-** Did you enjoy the fire-works last night.
- (27) **Free-**
- **Verb-** At last he freed himself from the cruel moneylender.
 - **Adjective-** I have a free pass for the show.

- *Adverb*- The bird was set free.

(28) **Good-**

- *Noun*- Whatever God does, He does for our good.
- *Adjective*- He is a good boy.
- *Adverb*- The boy is doing good.

(29) **Half-**

- *Noun*- Never do things by halves.
- *Adjective*- Half a loaf is better than no bread.
- *Adverb*- Well begun is half done.

(30) **House-**

- *Noun*- I have no house to live in.
- *Verb*- The library was housed in an old building.
- *Adjective*- Mr. Ravi is a house-surgeon these days.

(31) **Iron-**

- *Noun*- Iron is a useful metal.
- *Verb*- Iron your clothes.
- *Adjective*- Sardar Patel was an iron man.

(32) **Last-**

- *Noun*- The patient is sure to breathe his last.
- *Verb*- The meeting will last for two hours.
- *Adjective*- This bank is on its last leg.
- *Adverb*- He came last of all.

(33) **Light-**

- *Noun*- There is no light in the hall.
- *Verb*- Please light the lamp.
- *Adjective*- Give only light food to the patient.
- *Adverb*- Light come, light go.

(34) **Like-**

- *Noun*- I do not know your likes and dislikes.
- *Verb*- I like this apple.
- *Adjective*- Like father, like son.
- *Preposition*- He works like a bee.

(35) **Long-**

- *Noun*- What is the long and short of this matter? (the sum and substance or the gist of this matter).
- *Verb*- I long to have a watch (desire strongly).
- *Adjective*- It is a long story.
- *Adverb*- May you live long.

(36) **Make-**

- **Noun-** Our master is absent today.
- **Verb-** I have mastered the situation of the city.
- **Adjective-** Here is a master-key.

(37) **Master-**

- **Noun-** Our master is absent today.
- **Verb-** I have mastered the situation of the city.
- **Adjective-** Here is a master-key.

(38) **Much-**

- **Noun-** Much has already been done in this respect
- **Pronoun-** Much of the work has already been done.
- **Adjective-** He has done much work today.
- **Adverb-** He has worked much today.

(39) **Mean-**

- **Noun-** What is the mean of ten and sixteen.
- **Verb-** What do you mean to say?
- **Adjective-** Is he not a mean fellow?

(40) **Mine-**

- **Noun-** There is a gold mine in Mysore.
- **Pronoun-** Mine is not a bad picture.
- **Verb-** Diamonds are mined in South Africa.

(41) **Near-**

- **Verb-** The tribesmen are nearing the city.
- **Adjectives-** He is my near relative.
- **Adverb-** Come near, please.
- **Preposition-** He lives near our house.

(42) **Need-**

- **Noun-** My need is greater than yours.
- **Verb-** He needs a pen.
- **Adverb-** He must needs be present (of necessity).

(43) **Only-**

- **Adjective-** This is the only washerman here.
- **Adverb-** He only sleeps and does nothing.
- **Conjunction-** You may do whatever you like, only do not come near me.

(44) **Out-**

- **Noun-** I do not know the ins and outs of this matter (details).
- **Adjective-** I have booked my luggage at the Railway out agency.
- **Adverb-** Come out, please.
- **Preposition-** Out of the frying pan, into the fire.

(45) **Past-**

- **Noun-** His past is not good. The past of our country was very very glorious.

- **Adjective-** Do you know his past history?
- **Adverb-** The soldiers marched past.
- **Preposition-** The old man is past eighty.

(46) **Pen-**

- **Noun-** The pen is mightier than the sword.
- **Verb-** I have penned a few line in reply (written).
- **Adjectives-** I have some pen friends in China. (who become friends through letters).

(47) **Right-**

- **Noun-** He has every right to do so.
- **Verb-** Every wrong should be righted.
- **Adjective-** This is my right arm.
- **Adverb-** He was right glad to see me.

(48) **Round-**

- **Noun-** The man-made moon has already made more than one hundred rounds of the earth.
- **Verb-** All the thieves have been rounded up by the police.
- **Adjective-** We sat at a round table.
- **Adverb-** With great difficulty I brought him round to my views.
- **Preposition-** The man-made moon went round the earth.

(49) **Saddle-**

- **Noun-** Put the saddle on the back of the horse.
- **Verb-** The horse is saddled; I am saddled with great responsibility.

(50) **Save-**

- **Verb-** He has saved a lot of money.
- **Preposition-** All save (except) Ravi were present.

(51) **Set-**

- **Noun-** You have a good tea-set.
- **Verb-** Please set right the office.
- **Adjective-** I went to him with a set (fixed) purpose.

(52) **Short-**

- **Noun-** The long and short of the matter is that I do not see eye to eye with you.
- **Adjective-** I know short hand.
- **Adverb-** We fell short of money.

(53) **Since-**

- **Adverb-** He left this place one week since (ago).
- **Preposition-** He has been here since last Tuesday.
- **Conjunction-** Since he is ill, he cannot attend the meeting.

(54) **Slow-**

- **Verb-** The train slows down as it reaches the platform.
 - **Adjective-** Slow and steady wins the race.
 - **Adverb-** In summer clocks generally go slow.
- (55) **Sound-**
- **Noun-** I have heard the sound of the bugle.
 - **Verb-** Please sound the bugle.
 - **Adjective-** He has followed a sound policy.
 - **Adverb-** I have reached home safe and sound.
- (56) **Spring-**
- **Noun-** A spring has sprouted up in our neighbourhood.
 - **Verb-** The dog sprang upon the table.
 - **Adjective-** The spring water sometimes cures skin diseases.
- (57) **Still-**
- **Noun-** He came in the still of night (silence).
 - **Verb-** The presence of the Headmaster alone could still the angry students (quieten).
 - **Adjective-** Still waters are very deep.
 - **Adverb-** He is still here.
 - **Conjunction-** He is dead tired, still he goes on walking.
- (58) **That-**
- **Pronoun-** The picture that we saw was very interesting.
 - **Adjective-** That boy is very naughty.
 - **Adverb-** He can do that much work today.
 - **Conjunction-** He said that he would do it.
- (59) **Than-**
- **Preposition-** I have no other book than this.
 - **Conjunction-** He is much stronger than I (am).
- (60) **Then-**
- **Noun-** They have lived happily since then.
 - **Adjective-** The then Viceroy was very noble.
 - **Adverb-** I had gone out then.
 - **Conjunction-** You do not act upon my advice, then how can I guide you?
- (61) **Till-**
- **Noun-** A shopkeeper's money box is called a till.
 - **Verb-** The farmer is tilling the land.
 - **Preposition-** He did not turn up till yesterday.
 - **Conjunction-** I will wait here till he returns.
- (62) **Time-**
- **Noun-** Time and tide waits for none.
 - **Verb-** Time your watch to the clock tower.

- **Adjective-** Terrorists are planting time bombs.
- **Adverb-** Your debt is time barred now.

(63) **Up-**

- **Noun-** I have seen many ups and downs in life.
- **Verb-** Up, up with the patriots!
- **Adjective-** He travelled by the up train.
- **Adverb-** Wake him up, please.

(64) **Wall-**

- **Noun-** This wall is made of stone.
- **Verb-** The city has been walled to defend it properly.
- **Adjective-** This is a wall clock.

(65) **Watch-**

- **Noun-** This watch is of Swiss make; The guard is on the watch.
- **Verb-** I am watching your movements.
- **Adjective-** Have you a watch dog.

(66) **Water-**

- **Noun-** Water serves us in many ways.
- **Verb-** Water the plants, please.
- **Adjective-** The picture is drawn in water colour.

(67) **Well-**

- **Noun-** The deeper the well, the cooler the water.
- **Verb-** Tears welled up in the eyes of the old lady.
- **Adjective-** The well water is better than the spring water.
- **Adverb-** He always does well in the examination.
- **Interjection-** Well done!

(68) **While-**

- **Noun-** Let us wait for him for a while.
- **Verb-** Do not while away your time.
- **Conjunction-** I was sleeping, while he was busy in his work.

(69) **Wrong-**

- **Noun-** Right your wrongs.
- **Verb-** He has wronged me too much.
- **Adjective-** They adopted a wrong policy.